

Exciting victory in Blue Jays' Homecoming

By DICK BOYD

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The Homecoming celebration at Norton Community High School was highlighted on Friday night when the fighting Blue Jays treated the fans and alumni to an exciting 61-13 victory over a visiting Ellis eleven.

The score was tied at 6-all after the first quarter but Norton scored four touchdowns and Ellis one in the second period to put the Blue Jays on top 34-13 at intermission.

The third quarter was a big train wreck for the Railroaders who allowed three more touchdowns by Norton in the first minute and 23 seconds to increase the Blue Jay lead to 54-13 with 10:37 still left in the period. Ellis turned the ball over deep in their territory after that on a punt attempt but was able to prevent another Norton touchdown. The Norton reserves played the rest of the way, trading touchdowns for a final score of 61-13.

"We played well and with more energy than usual," said Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin. "We executed better offensively and defensively.

"We made some little adjustments at halftime and I was very happy about how we came out and really got after it. Our defense held them to 20 offensive yards the second half.

"It was good to be able to play all of our players in the second half."

Senior kicker Austin Hager kicked off for Norton to start the game. The Railroaders gained yardage with junior Sean Lee leading the way. Lee eventually passed to junior Eli Lohrmeyer for a 29-yard touchdown. The extra point attempt was no good but Ellis led 6-0 with 8:38 left in the quarter.

After the kickoff, Norton fumbled and Ellis recovered on the Norton 46. The Blue Jay defense held and took over. Senior fullback Toby Nickell had several carries for a first down, then senior tailback Tanner Furbush picked up a first down on the Ellis 28. With Nickell and Furbush alternating, Norton moved downfield. Sophomore quarterback Jordan Dole ran a keeper over the right side for a Blue Jay touchdown. Norton had trouble on the snap for the extra point kick and it was no good, leaving the score tied at 6-all with 2:42 left.

After Hager's kickoff, the Norton defense forced a three-and-out and Norton had the ball on the Ellis 41. More carries by Nickell and Furbush and the Blue Jays had the ball on the Ellis 27 as time expired in the first quarter.

The Railroader defense held and Nickell punted. Furbush alertly downed the ball on the Ellis 3-yard-line! Ellis tried to pass from deep in their territory and it backfired as sophomore safety Gavin Lively intercepted.



Norton senior tailback Tanner Furbush ended the first half on Friday night during the Homecoming win over Ellis by returning a Railroader kickoff 88 yards for a touchdown! It was his third touchdown of the game and put Norton

A block-in-the-back penalty hurt ball placement for Norton but they still had the pigskin on the Ellis 26. Dole ran a keeper to the 15, Nickell got 3, Furbush 6 and Dole sneaked for a first down on the 2. Furbush bulled into the end zone for the go-ahead touchdown. Hager split the uprights and Norton led 13-6 with 9:07 left in the half.

After the kickoff, junior linebacker Jared Tallent recovered a fumble on the Ellis 38. The Norton line opened the holes for Nickell and it took him just four carries to get into the end zone from 1 yard out. Hager's kick extended the Norton lead to 20-6 with 7:39 remaining.

After Hager's kickoff, the Blue Jay defense forced another three-and-out and Ellis punted to the Norton 37. With Dole leading the offense with runs and passes Norton moved downfield. A Dole pass was bounced off a Railroader defender into the waiting arms of senior wide receiver Drew Schrum on the Ellis 1-yard-line!

Furbush plunged into the end zone for his second touchdown of the night. The extra point

kick was no good but Norton was on top 26-6 with 2:26 left in the first half.

On Hager's kickoff, the Ellis returner fumbled on the 12-yard line but recovered. On first down, Lee ran a keeper around left end, eluded several Norton tacklers and ran 88 yards for what turned out to be the only other Ellis score of the night. The extra point kick by senior Skyler Tebo was good, cutting the Norton lead to 26-13 with 2:08 left.

Norton fireworks were not over for the first half, however, as Furbush followed good blocking and broke into the open to return the ensuing kickoff 88 yards for his third touchdown of the night! Norton lined up as if to kick the extra point but junior holder Kendall Miller ran the ball into the end zone for two extra points, making it 34-13 with 1:50 left.

Ellis was unable to move the ball after Hager's kickoff and the first half ended with Norton still leading 34-13.

Norton received the kickoff to open the second half and Furbush returned the pigskin to the

on top 34-13 at halftime. The Blue Jays outscored the Railroaders 27-0 in the second half.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Ellis 47. On first down, Dole ran the keeper, found running room and sprinted into the end zone! The extra point kick was not good but Norton led 40-13 with just 18 seconds off the scoreboard clock.

After kicking off, Hager hustled downfield, stole the ball from the Ellis returner and ran into the end zone for yet another Norton touchdown! Hager split the uprights and Norton led 47-13 with 11:27 still left in the third period.

Hager kicked off, Ellis fumbled and sophomore back Riley Hager fell on the ball for the Blue Jays on the Railroader 9-yard-line! Furbush plunged to the 1 and Dole sneaked over for another Blue Jay score. Hager's kick extended the Norton lead to 54-13 with 10:37 still remaining in the third period.

For the rest of the third quarter, both teams had ball three possessions and each lost it once on fumbles as the quarter ended with the Jays still leading 54-13.

The reserves played the fourth quarter for Norton. As the quarter got underway, Nor-

ton held Ellis and took over on the Norton 45-yard line. Miller was at quarterback and completed passes to freshman wide receiver Tyus Henson and Riley Hager in addition to running for some yardage. Tallent also picked up yardage on several runs and scored Norton's final touchdown from 2 yards out with 6:38 left. Hager kicked the extra point, making the score 61-13.

Norton's 48-point lead brought the continuous clock rule into play. Each team had one more possession without adding to the score.

Individual statistics

Jordan Dole was leading rusher for Norton with 88 yards on 8 carries for an 11 yard average, followed by Toby Nickell, 68 on 12, 5.7 average; Tanner Furbush, 49 on 11, 4.5 average; Kendall Miller, 25 on 6, 4.2 average; Jared Tallent, 13 on 5, 2.6 average.

Dole completed 4 of 5 passes for 48 yards. Miller completed 2 of 4 for 35 yards.

Pass receivers were: Nickell, 1 for 26; Drew Schrum, 1 for 23; Riley Hager, 1 for 22; Tyus

Henson, 1 for 13.

Furbush had 3 kickoff returns for 150 yards. Lively had 2 punt returns for 57 yards and Furbush had 1 for 5 yards.

Hager had 10 kickoffs for an average of 44 yards. Nickell punted just once for 32 yards. Lively had 1 pass interception.

Austin Hager, Tallent and Riley Hager each had 1 fumble recovery.

Starting lineup

Norton started on offense: junior Jordan Karnopp, left tackle; freshman Jacob Green, left guard; senior Cole Renner, center; junior Kolton Harting, right guard; junior Breven Sondergaard, right tackle; senior Drew Schrum and junior Kobie Unterseher, wide receivers; junior Mickey Hahn, tight end; sophomore Jordan Dole, quarterback; senior Toby Nickell, fullback; senior Tanner Furbush, tailback.

Defensive starters were: Dole, Sondergaard, junior Stewart Whitney, Renner, Furbush, front five; Nickell, Hahn, linebackers; senior Austin Hager, Unterseher, cornerbacks; sophomore Gavin Lively, senior Trever Lewis, safeties.

Tackles

Leading tacklers for Norton were Tanner Furbush with 4 solos, 3 assists, 7 total and Riley Hager with 5 solos, 2 assists, 7 total. They were followed by Stewart Whitney, 4 solos, 2 assists, 6 total; Jared Tallent, 5 solos; Travis Cressler, 1 solo, 2 assists, 3 total; Trever Lewis, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Gavin Lively, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Toby Nickell, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Breven Sondergaard, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Cody Temmel, 3 solos; James Berry, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; Christian Boser, 2 solos; Jordan Dole, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; Mickey Hahn, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; Cole Renner, 2 assists; Kobie Unterseher, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; Conor Cox, 1 solo; Austin Hager, 1 solo; Cameron Heikes, 1 solo; Koby McEwen, 1 solo; Layton Miller, 1 solo; Ethan Ross, 1 solo; Derek Rowh, 1 assist.

Next action

Norton will travel to Colby this Friday night to play the always tough Class 4A Eagles in a 7 p.m. contest.

"They are talented with some speed," said coach Melvin. "They play a tough schedule and have lost some close games. They'll be hungry for a win since they haven't won yet.

"We'll get their best shot."

GAME STATISTICS

NORTON	ELLIS	
13	First Downs	4
247	Yards Rushing	160
83	Yards Passing	33
330	Total Yard	193
7-10-0	Pass Compl.	2-11-1
2-3	Fumbles Lost	3-7
1-32	Punts	5-34.2
6-58	Penalties	7-56

Lady Jays even their record in last Tuesday's matches

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity volleyball team evened their season record at 7-7 last Tuesday with wins over Wray, Colo. and Wheatland/Grinnell and a loss to Goodland in Goodland.

Norton defeated Wray 25-14, 25-18; lost to Goodland 19-25, 21-25 and finished by outscoring Wheatland/Grinnell 25-27, 25-14, 25-19.

"Our varsity team had a complete turn around from our last play on September 24th," said Norton head volleyball coach Christine Thompson. "Our girls played very well together, being aggressive and communicating the entire night.

"Our first match against Wray set the tone of the rest of the night for our Lady Jays. We easily defeated Wray in two sets. I believe our girls were a little over confident in the second match against Goodland; The last time we played Goodland, we beat them so I believe our girls took them a little for granted. We lost the match to a much improved Goodland team

but we played very aggressive against them.

"Our last match of the night was against state-ranked Wheatland/Grinnell. They proved to be a very defensively sound team, probably the best team of the night. Our hitters became frustrated due to Wheatland/Grinnell putting up good blocks and digging everything up but they continued to keep hitting and tried to find the open areas of the court. Even though we went three sets, we came out on top for the win. I believe this showed our girls how mentally tough they are going to have to become for the rest of our season. From here on out, we are playing some very competitive teams. We came away from the night with two wins and one loss but I also believe that it was another step in our team becoming the team which they are capable of becoming."

WRAY, COLO.

Freshman Baylee Miller led serving aces with 2, followed by senior Bailey Ambrosier, 1; freshman Caitlyn Cox, 1.

Setting assists leader was se-

nior Johnnye Ruder with 15, followed by Miller, 1.

Kills leader was Bailey Ambrosier with 7, followed by junior Katie Bohl, 3; Ruder, 3; Cox, 2; Casey Ambrosier, 2; Miller, 1; sophomore Peyton Renner, 1.

Bailey Ambrosier had 3 digs and Bohl had 2.

Bailey Ambrosier had 2 blocks, Casey Ambrosier had 2; Ruder, Cox, Renner, 1 each.

GOODLAND

Miller led serving aces again, this time with 4. She was followed by Ruder, 2; Bohl, 1.

In setting assists, Ruder was the leader again, this time with 8. She was followed by Miller, 2; Cox, 1; Casey Ambrosier, 1.

Ruder led kills with 6, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, 4; Cox, 3; Bohl, 2.

In the digs department, Cox and Bohl each had 3, followed by Ruder, 2; junior Adrienne Hager, 2; Bailey Ambrosier, 1; Miller, 1.

Renner, Bohl and Bailey Ambrosier each had 1 block.

WHEATLAND/GRINNELL

Cox led serving aces with 5, followed by Bailey Ambrosier,

Ruder, 2 each; Bohl, Hager, Miller, 1 each.

Ruder continued to lead serving assists with 15, followed by Miller, 2.

Leading in kills was Bohl with 9, followed by Ruder, 6; Bailey Ambrosier, 5; Cox, 4; Miller, 1.

In the digs department, Bohl, Bailey Ambrosier, Ruder, Hager, Cox, Casey Ambrosier and Miller each had 1.

Bailey Ambrosier and Ruder each had 2 blocks, followed by Casey Ambrosier, Renner, 1 each.

Next action

Norton played Hays, Abilene and Salina South in Hays last Thursday and, on Saturday, they played in the Oberlin Invitational. Results were not available for either of these at the Norton Telegram's press time.

Tonight, Norton will play Trego and Smith Center in Wakeney, beginning at 5 p.m.

On Thursday, Oct. 10, Norton will host Ellis and Goodland on "Senior Night" and "Pink Out Night" to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Norton girls will be wearing pink: uni-

form tops, ribbons, socks and shoe laces.

Fans are also asked to wear

pink to the matches to support the promotion.



Friday night's game.
The 6th grade spelling bee.
Our county fair.

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